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LB 1217

that, Mr. President, I now have a motion from the Appropriations Committee with respect to that certain provisions of LB 1217 become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor. And those provisions include the following sections for mental health provider rates: Section 19, 21, 22, and 23; Section 24 for Region VI Hospital reimbursement; Section 36, the University of Nebraska; Section 37, University of Nebraska Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery; and Section 48, Centennial Mall improvements.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to open on your motion.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I did have passed out a sheet of paper earlier this morning, the top half of that, if you recall or you have it in front of you, is the total vetoes that the Governor vetoed, and on the bottom of the page is a recommendation, this package, if you will, of the Appropriations Committee for overrides. And I'm going to reiterate that very briefly. It's to restore \$2 million to the mental health provider...for mental health provider rates. To restore \$750,000 for the Region VI Hospital reimbursement, that is for this current year and I would call it a true deficit in the fact that it's already, those costs have already been incurred, that's \$750,000. And we recommend \$1,250,000 of restoration to the University of Nebraska for their health care costs. That is half of the Governor's veto. In other words, we restored it for this current year, did not restore it for next year, thinking that we would look at that closer at that time, but at this point, what we take out now is difficult for them to overcome and we'll actually dig the hole deeper for them next year. And Sheldon Art Gallery, we recommended a restoration of \$987,000 and, in essence, pushed that back to the second year to 2000-2001. Rather than starting now, we start next year and then that does take it out further into the future. Also, \$500,000 for 2000-2001, starting this July 1st, for the Centennial Mall improvements. I want to talk just a little bit more about a couple of those. The University of Nebraska health costs, I guess I will be very frank about this. I know there is not a lot of enthusiasm for that. I think the committee felt on this...we had a 37 percent increase in state college health care costs a year ago, 25 percent increase state of Nebraska of costs a year ago, and we funded